

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are pending. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 have been amended. Support for those amendments can be found, for example, in original claims 2 and 6, which have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,649,743 (Sugimoto et al.).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing that claims 2-4, 6 and 7 include allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 6, respectively. Claim 1 now represents claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 now represents claim 6 rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 5, therefore, should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 9 also have been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 2 and 6. Since the Office action recognized the subject matter of claim 2 as being allowable, claims 8 and 9 should be allowable now as well.

With regard to the statement of reasons for indicating that claims 2-4, 6 and 7 included allowable subject matter (in paragraph 2 of the Office action), Applicant submits that it is the subject matter of each claim as a whole that is patentable, not any particular feature recited in the claim(s). Applicant does not concede that the reasons given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make that subject matter allowable and does not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statements.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or

concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 15682-018US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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